

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IO-11 EB-07 /083 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0378

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJ: DECEMBER 19 INNER-GERMAN PACKAGE--

UNAUTHORIZED REICHSBAHN CONSTRUCTION IN WSB

REFS: A) USBERLIN 350, B) USBERLIN 285, C) BONN 3174

1. SUMMARY: ALLIED AND SENAT REPS LEARNED DURING VISIT TO TRAIN STATIONS THAT WORK IS PROCEEDING RAPIDLY AT WANNSEE WITHOUT REQUIRED ALLIED AUTHORIZATION AND WAS INITIATED AT CHARLOTTENBURG FEBRUARY 26. REICHSBAHN. SENAT HAS REMINDED WEST BERLIN FIRMS OF NEED FOR ALLIED APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND WILL SPEAK TO REICHSBAHN FEBRUARY 27. WE ARE SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH SOVIETS FEBRUARY 27. EMD SUMMARY.

2. PARTY OF ALLIED AND SENAT REPS VISITED CHARLOT- TENBURG, SPANDAU, WANNEE AND STAAKEN STATIONS FEBRUARY 26 AS PROPOSED REF A. EAST GERMAN BAHN POLIZEI MADE NO EFFORT TO INTERFERE WITH INSPECTION
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OF TRACKS AND RELATED AREAS AFTER POLICE ESCORT

EXPLAINED IDENTITY OF PARTY. GROUP NOTED THAT WEST BERLIN FIRM HAD BEGUN CONSTRUCTION AT CHARLOT- TENBURG, ACCORDING TO SENAT REP WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH STATION THAT VERY DAY. GROUP ALSO FOUND THAT CON- STRUCTION WAS WELL UNDER WAY AT WANNSEE WHERE WORK GANG OF AT LEAST 20 MEN WAS BUSY TEARING OUT OLD TRACKS TO MAKE WAY FOR EXTENSION OF PLATFORM. TRACKS WERE BEING LOADED ON FREIGHT CARS APPARENTLY FOR SHIPMENT OUT OF WEST BERLIN. IN VIOLATION NOT ONLY OF BK/O(75)15 BUT ALSO OF BK/O(49)216 WHICH FOR 27 YEARS HAS REQUIRED REICHSBAHN TO OBTAIN SECTOR COMMANDANT AUTHORIZATION TO REMOVE OPERATING RAIL- ROAD PROPERTY. REICHSBAHN PERSONNEL ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE BEGUN IN PAST FEW DAYS PREPARATORY CLEARANCE WORK AT SPANDAU STATION.

3. SENAT DEIPATCHED LETTER FEBRUARY 18 TO WEST BERLIN FIRMS IT BELIEVES HAVE SIGNED OR ARE BIDDING ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS WITH REICHSBAHN REMINDING THEM THAT BK/O(75)15 REQUIRES THAT REICHSBAHN OBTAIN ALLIED APPROVAL BEFORE BEGINNING WORK. SENAT IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT WITH EXCEPTIONS SUCH AS SIEMENS, BULK OF HEAVY DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BE DONE BY SMALL WEST BERLIN FIRM, HILBIG&VENTZKE, THAT IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON REICH- SBAHN CONTRACTS. SENAT BELIEVES, THEREFORE, THAT THIS FIRM IS UNLIKELY TO COOPERATE WILLINGLY WITH EFFORTS TO GET REICHSBAHN TO DO SOMETHING IT FINDS DISTASTEFUL.

4. SENAT WORKING LEVEL CONTACT WITH REICHSBAHN VISITED LATTER'S WEST BERLIN HEADQUARTERS FEBRUARY 24 AND EXTENDED INVITATION TO MEET ON CONSTRUCTION QUESTIONS. SENAT RECEIVED TELEX FEBRUARY 26 FROM GDR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT WHICH, WITHOUT MENTIONING REICHSBAHN, INVITED SENAT SPECIALIST TO DISCUSSION "IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR WISH" IN MINISTRY FEBRUARY 27. ALTHOUGH TELEX APPEARS DILIBERATE PLOY BY GDR TO EMPHASIZE ITS CONTROL OVER REICHSBAHN MATTERS IN WESTERN SECTORS, WE DECIDED TO ALLOW SENAT TO ACCEPT INVITATION SO THAT OUR SUBSTANTIVE MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD BE DELIVERED. SENAT EXPERT WILL EXPRESS UN- HAPPINESS THAT SIMPLE INVITATION TO MEET WITH REICHS- BAHN IN WESTERN SECTORS HAS BEEN POLITICIZED AND WILL LIMIT HIMSELF TO PREVIOUSLY PREPARED TALKING POINTS (REF B, PARA 8 AS MODIFIED REF A PARA 2).

5. CHAIRMAN POLAD (US) WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE APPOINTMENT FEBRUARY 27 WITH SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR

TO DELIVER MESSAGE REF A, PARA 3.GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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